

cover the rent, buy food, or pay for their prescription drugs.

Madam Speaker, there are so many good things already in place as a result of the health care reform, and I cannot believe that those who want to repeal it want to deny our children, want to deny our young people, want to deny our seniors the benefits that it provides.

JUSTICE FOR TRAYVON MARTIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, Trayvon Martin was a 17-year-old young boy who lived in my district and attended school within walking distance of my home. I have known his family most of my life, and they are pleading, begging, crying for justice. The whole city of Miami is pleading for justice as they try to remain calm.

Every day, every day I will come to this floor and announce to America how long justice for Trayvon Martin has been delayed by using this charge.

Today marks the 25th day. Trayvon Martin was murdered 25 days ago, and still there has been no arrest. The evidence is overwhelming. Every single day new evidence emerges, and still there is no arrest.

To date, the FBI, the DOJ, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, FDLE, and the State Attorney's Office are all involved in investigations surrounding his death. And still there has been no arrest.

What does it take? What more does it take?

The eyes of people pleading for justice in this Congress and everywhere I go are watching Sanford, Florida. The grand jury has been selected, and the grand jury is not reflective of Trayvon's family nor Trayvon. That must be corrected immediately.

I've heard from Trayvon's family. I've heard from his brother, his uncle, his classmates, his teachers, community leaders, the school superintendent. I even spoke to his mother again late last night. Everyone is calling for justice.

What happened to Trayvon was a classic example of racial profiling, quickly followed by murder of our dear, sweet Trayvon Martin.

Do you know that it took 3 days, 3 whole days, for the police to release Trayvon's body from the morgue to be shipped to Miami for burial and the funeral simply because the Police Department would not submit the necessary paperwork?

Sanford Police, do your duty. Arrest the murderer today. Twenty-five days is much too long.

We must stand up for justice. We must stand up for Trayvon. And we must stand up for our children.

JUSTICE FOR TRAYVON MARTIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Before I begin, let me just mention that today, visiting us in the Capitol, is the former mayor of Jacksonville, Mr. Peyton, and I want to welcome him to his Capitol.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Miami for her comments and, really, all of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

This is a very tough time for us, being the Representative from Sanford, Florida.

I want to commend, first of all, the mayor, Mayor Triplett, and the county commissioner, Ms. Williams, and the city manager. We met Friday for over 5 hours, discussing what we could do to bring some kind of clarity to this situation.

This is a tragic situation. In having met with the family, met with the mother, it was very, very difficult to talk with the mother and father and know that I truly feel that justice has not taken place.

In the society that we live in, it's very important that we have to feel that the criminal justice system is fair and is fair to all parties. I cannot stand before you today and say that I feel that the system has operated fairly.

One of the first things I asked to happen is that there be an arrest. Well, we don't have an arrest. It's 25 days.

The second thing I asked is that we release the tapes, and we have released the 911 tapes. I've got to tell you, it has taken on a life of its own, because the things that were told to me in the meeting are not the things that were reflected in the tapes.

So you have the media looking into it, and I call them the fourth branch of the government. They can verify what's on the tapes. They can verify whether or not you would take someone's comment as to what they said happened when this young man is not there to tell his side of the story.

We have a person that everyone talks about was over the Neighborhood Watch. I want to point out, self-appointed over the Neighborhood Watch—self-appointed. That means, was not trained.

Clearly, if you listen to the tapes, the police dispatcher told him to stand down. Less than 5 minutes later, this young man was dead. He was just walking at the time. He was a black African American that on the tape said looked suspicious. It was raining, and you're looking suspicious in a neighborhood when just walking on the sidewalk.

He started following him, and the dispatcher said clearly, more than once: We need you not to follow this young man. We are on the way. We will handle it.

Less than 5 minutes later, this young man is dead.

This is not acceptable in this society. I have asked that the Justice Department—and I want to thank all of the

tri-caucuses for weighing in on the importance of having an independent investigation, and that's the Justice Department. They've committed that there will be no stones unturned and that they will look into what has happened as far as the violation of his civil rights, whether it's a hate crime. But, in addition, we want to make sure that we have an independent review of how the police force has handled this situation.

□ 1120

I have some grave concerns when I discuss some of the things that have happened. For example, he was drug tested. He was tested. He had alcohol in his system. Yet, the person that did the shooting was not tested in any manner—no drug tests, no alcohol tests, no lie detector tests. It is just his word that he felt threatened. So, therefore, he shot to kill. That's unacceptable.

We are a better society than that, and we are going to work to make sure that this will never happen again. To whom God has given much, much is expected.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Carl Hickerson, Springfield Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O God, we confess our hope for the future is challenged by present circumstances. As we read or watch the news, our faith often falters.

Thank you, God, for examples of steadfastness and belief in the future. We thank You for people who plant trees though they may not live to enjoy them. We thank You for public servants and grassroots folks who struggle to preserve our society so that our children and grandchildren may inherit an inhabitable world.

We know, O God, that all people who believe and hope for the future are not necessarily doing it in Your name; but we acknowledge them as Yours, and we pray that You help us, each of us, to join their ranks.

Restore our faith. Remind us that You are our hope. For the sake of Him who died young so that we all might have a future, we pray.

Amen.